

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET MEDIA ON IMPEACHMENT

1. BOTH IZVESTIYA AUGUST 7 AND PRAVDA AUGUST 8 PRINT TWO TASS STORIES SIDE BY SIDE ON IMPEACHMENT QUESTION. FIRST REPORTS STATEMENTS BY SECRETARIES SIMON, DENT, AND KISSINGER AFTER EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING. SIMON QUOTES PRESIDENT AS SAYING HE HAD PERFORMED NO ACTION WHICH JUSTIFIED IMPEACHMENT. DENT EXPRESSED CABINET'S SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT. KISSINGER EMPHASIZES BIPARTISAN, NATIONAL-INTEREST BASIS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. SECOND STORY REPORTS AGREEMENT BY HOUSE LEADERSHIP TO HOLD IMPEACHMENT DEBATE FROM AUGUST 19 TO 23 OR 24 AND EXPLAINS NUMBER OF VOTES NEEDED IN HOUSE AND SENATE FOR IMPEACHMENT AND CONVICTION. BOTH ARTICLES DEFINE IMPEACHMENT AS REMOVAL FROM OFFICE (OTSTRANENIYE OT DOLZHNOСТИ).

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2. IZVESTIYA, IN ADDITION, CARRIES LONG ARTICLE BY CORRESPONDENT STURUA EXPLAINING IMPEACHMENT PROCESS, SUPPOSEDLY IN ANSWER TO QUESTION SENT IN BY A LADY FROM MINSK. STURUA QUOTES CONSTITUTION, REVIEWS CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURE AND HISTORY, BUT DOES NOT COMMENT ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S CASE. HE DOES RAISE QUESTION OF WHETHER SENATE CONVICTION COULD BE APPEALED TO SUPREME COURT AND ANSWERS BY QUOTING ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE (IN U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW) AS SAYING NO, SINCE THIS IS MATTER RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CONGRESS.

3. ENGLISH TASS AUGUST 8 SUMMARIZES STATEMENTS BY SENATORS MANSFIELD AND SCOTT EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY REGARDLESS OF THE IMPEACHMENT QUESTION. MANSFIELD IS QUOTED AS PLEDGING TO WORK FOR BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR PRESENT FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY PURSUIT OF DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. COMMENT. FAST BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON HAVE FINALLY FORCED SOVIET PRESS TO REPORT MORE THAN ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS. MEDIA HERE HAVE ALSO LAUNCHED EDUCATIONAL EFFORT, DEFINING IMPEACHMENT AND EXPLAINING TO READERS ROUGHLY HOW IT WORKS. SOVIET PUBLIC HAS NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN GIVEN ANY INDICATION OF WIDESPREAD PRESSURE ON PRESIDENT TO RESIGN. SOVIET CONCERN WAS, HOWEVER, BETRAYED DURING CALL AUGUST 8 ON MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIKHAYLOV, WHO BROUGHT UP SUBJECT IN ORDER TO ASK IF PRESIDENT WAS LIKELY TO RESIGN.
STOESSEL

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